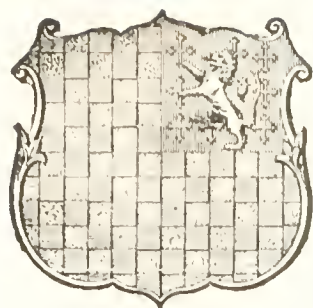


Borough



of Lewes.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1919.

Area of Borough in acres	..	..	1,042
Census population	..	..	10,972

	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Population estimated to middle of year	10,972	10,243	10,972	10,972	10,200
Birth-rate per 1,000	16·3	18·96	15·21	20·5	18·72
General death-rate	14·5	16	16·12	15·8	13·43
Zymotic death-rate	·45	·97	·71	·36	0·19
Death-rate per 1,000 from notifiable diseases (excluding phthisis)	·18	·97	·41	·36	0·19
Death-rate from phthisis ..	·91	1·9	1·7	1·2	0·98
Death-rate under 1 year to 1,000 births	66·3	77·7	73·17	80·9	36·6
Deaths over 65, percentage of total deaths	48·7	41·3	40·7	35·6	36·5

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report (in which is incorporated the Report of the Sanitary Inspector), for the year 1919, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

The birth-rate is satisfactory, in that it exceeds the average birth-rate for England and Wales; whereas the death-rate is slightly below the average for the kingdom.

The mortality amongst children under one year (seven) is the lowest since 1892, when only six deaths were registered.

There were no deaths from diarrhoea.

The two deaths from acute infectious disease (diphtheria) were doubtless due to the parents' unfortunate delay in seeking medical advice.

The general death-rate is 13·13; the death-rate for England and Wales being 13·8.

It is very satisfactory to know that the Council's Housing Scheme is making definite progress, since the unsanitary conditions of some of the houses, arising from overcrowding and defects, is a matter of serious concern.

Another matter of urgency, and one which needs dealing with, is the drainage of the Isolation Hospital.

During my absence the work was carried on by Dr. E. H. Lemon, the Acting Medical Officer of Health, to whom I am greatly indebted: and I also wish to thank Mr. Ward, the Sanitary Inspector, for his invaluable help during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN R. STENHOUSE,

Medical Officer of Health.

April, 1920.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT, 1919.

SANITARY COMMITTEE, 1918-1919.

Councillor Martin, Chairman.

The Mayor (Alderman Rugg).

Alderman Every.	Councillor Pryor.
Alderman Miles.	Councillor Stott.
Alderman Roberts.	Councillor Vallance.
Councillor Fuller (part).	Councillor Verral.
Councillor Glover.	Councillor Wyborn.
Councillor Young.	Councillor Tiller (part).

Staff.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. R. Stenhouse, M.D., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector : Arthur Ward, Cert. Roy. San. Inst.

HOSPITAL COMMITTEE, 1918-1919.

Councillor Verral, Chairman.

The Mayor (Alderman Rugg), *ex-officio*.

Alderman Every.	Councillor Stott.
Councillor Fowler.	Councillor Vallance.
Councillor Pryor.	Councillor Wyborn.

Staff.

Medical Superintendent : J. R. Stenhouse, Medical Officer of Health.

Nurse Matron : Mrs. A. Clarity.

Caretaker : W. Clarity.

Wardmaid-General.

Causes of Deaths in Lewes.

CIVILIANS ONLY.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All causes	64	73
Diphtheria and Croup	—	2
Influenza	4	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease	10	8
Organic Heart Disease	9	7
Bronchitis	5	10
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	5
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1	1
Congenital Debility, &c.	2	4
Violence, apart from Suicide	2	2
Other defined Diseases	20	26
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	2	5
Total Births	91	100
Legitimate	84	91
Illegitimate	7	9
Population for Birth-rate .. .. .	..	10,494
Population for Death-rate .. .. .	..	10,074

TABLE XV.—Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1919.
(Provisional figures. Population estimated to the middle of 1919 have been used for the purposes of this Table).

Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.									RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.*			
	All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Typhoid Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.	
England and Wales	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.07	0.13	0.47	9.59	89	23.9	92.5	6.2	1.3	
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.04	0.07	0.14	0.45	12.24	93	29.2	92.3	6.9	0.8	
148 Smaller Towns (Census Populations 20,000—50,000) ..	12.6	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.08	0.12	0.39	8.67	90	16.6	93.6	4.9	1.5	
London	13.4	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.03	0.05	0.18	0.47	16.22	85	44.7	91.2	8.6	0.2	

* Non-civilians are included in these figures for England and Wales, but not for other areas.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The Town is situated on the tidal River Ouse. The greater part is on the chalk, rising from the alluvium, at the lower part of the Town, 18 feet above high water mark to 200 feet above high water mark at the highest part of the Town.

The Town is largely residential. There is no occupation particularly affecting public health.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supply.—The water supply is derived mainly from the Lewes Water Company. The Cliffe Well and some private wells are still being used.

The Company's Well is situated at the South-west end of the Town. The water is pumped from the well into three covered distributing reservoirs, *i.e.*, Jubilee Park, The Race Hill and Western Road. The supply is constant, of good quality and sufficient for the needs of the community.

Analysis of the water made during the year gave very satisfactory results.

Copies of Reports of Public Analyst, on samples of Water taken from the Well and Mains of the Lewes Water Company.

The Public Analyst's Laboratory,
85, Queen's Road,
Brighton, Sussex,
April 12th, 1919.

Report upon a sample of Water taken by me from a standpipe in the Avenue (Offham Road), Lewes, on April 9th, 1919.

Sample labelled: "Lewes Water. Sample from Avenue (Offham Road)."

The water on arrival had the following characteristics:—

Colour—None.

Smell—None on arrival at the Laboratory.

Sediment—A mere trace of ferruginous matter.

Chemical Analysis afforded the following:—

					Grains per Gallon.	Parts per Million.
Total solids (dried at 100° C)	..	..	..	..	20·6	—
Solids (after ignition)	..	..	..	..	10·6	—
Chlorine	..	..	..	..	1·7	—
Ammonia (free)	..	..	..	..	—	·030
Ammonia (albuminoid)	..	..	..	..	—	·040
Oxygen taken from permanganate in $\frac{1}{4}$ hour	..	..	..	..	None	—
Oxygen	..	..	..	4 hours.	None	—
Nitrogen as Nitrates and Nitrites	..	..	..	..	·28	—
Nitrites	..	..	..	..	None	—
Hardness (total)	..	..	..	..	9·7	—
Hardness (after boiling)	..	..	..	..	4·2	—
Phosphates	..	..	..	..	None	—
Metallic impurity	..	..	..	..	A mere trace of Iron.	

Bacteriological Examination.

The water was practically sterile as only two organisms grew on any of the media employed either at room temperature or blood temperature. Special examination was made for organisms of the Coli group, but the results were entirely negative.

Report.

Chemically and bacterially this water is highly satisfactory. There is no evidence of organic contamination and in my opinion the water is perfectly safe for drinking purposes and domestic use.

S. ALLINSON WOODHEAD, M.Sc., F.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

The Public Analyst's Laboratory,
85, Queen's Road,
Brighton, Sussex.

Report upon a sample of Water taken by me from the Well at the Lewes Water Co.'s Pumping Station, Kingston Road, on July 30th, 1919.

Sample labelled: "Lewes Water Co. Sample from Well."

The water on arrival had the following characteristics:—

Colour—None.

Smell—None.

Sediment—A mere trace.

Chemical Analysis afforded the following:—

					Grains per Gallon.	Parts per Million.
Total solids (dried at 100° C)	..	..	..	..	23·4	—
Solids (after ignition)	..	..	..	..	12·8	—
Chlorine	..	..	..	..	1·95	—
Ammonia (free)	..	..	..	..	—	·030
Ammonia (albuminoid)	..	..	..	..	—	·030
Oxygen taken from permanganate in $\frac{1}{4}$ hour	..	..	..	..	None	—
Oxygen	..	..	..	4 hours.	None	—
Nitrogen as Nitrates and Nitrites	..	..	..	..	·172	—
Nitrites	..	..	..	..	None	—
Hardness (total)	..	..	..	..	11·4	—
Hardness (after boiling)	..	..	..	..	5·0	—
Phosphates	..	..	..	..	None	—
Metallic impurity	..	..	..	..	Trace of Iron.	—

Bacteriological Examination.

The organisms per cubic centimetre which grew on nutrient gelatine in three days at room temperature and were then visible to the naked eye as colonies numbered 6. On Agar at blood temperature 5 colonies were noticed. Special examination was made for organisms of the Coli group with entirely negative results.

Report.

Chemically and bacterially this water is very satisfactory. There is no evidence of organic contamination and judging from the above combined chemical analysis and bacterial examination, I am of opinion the said water is perfectly safe for drinking purposes and domestic use.

S. ALLINSON WOODHEAD, M.Sc., F.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

Mr. Wells, Manager of the Water Works Company, has kindly supplied the following figures for the Rainfall during the year :—

RAINFALL FOR THE YEAR 1919 AT THE PUMPING STATION OF THE
LEWES WATER WORKS COMPANY.

Month.	Rainfall.	Number of Days of or more fell.	Greatest quantity in one day.
January	7.40	25	.99 on 27th
February	2.52	14	.61 on 21st
March	5.16	25	.95 on 19th
April	3.08	14	.63 on 14th
May ... ..	.46	8	.21 on 9th
June ... ..	.91	8	.70 on 20th
July	1.48	16	.32 on 19th
August	3.89	10	.93 on 28th
September	2.68	12	1.05 on 3rd
October ... ..	.76	12	.24 on 29th
November	3.38	24	.61 on 28th
December	6.37	27	.87 on 1st
Total	38.09	195	

Rivers and Streams.—The sewage of the Town is discharged into the tidal River Ouse. The new sewage scheme, inaugurated in 1912, but interrupted by the War, provides for the diversion of all sewers to a Central Station, where the sewage, after screening and passing through settling tanks, will be discharged at some distance below the Town through one Outfall into the river at suitable states of the tide. Part of the sewage is already being treated in this way.

Drainage and Sewerage.—"Water carriage system." Many of the sewers are modern and good. Some old brick sewers still remain; these, however, are being dealt with as opportunity arises. Three have been taken up this year and replaced with glazed stoneware pipes by direct labour under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor, *i.e.*, Station Street, St. Andrew's Lane and Watergate Lane.

There are some houses which still drain into cesspools.

Closet Accommodation.—Practically all water closets; part hand flushed and part with flushing cisterns. Seven have been provided with flushing cisterns during the year.

Scavenging.—The collection of House Refuse is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector and is made by the Corporation's own staff once a week. Refuse is deposited at the Corporation's Wharf, and after sorting and burning, the residue is utilised for brick making, meadow dressing and filling up low lying grounds. 135 movable galvanised iron covered dust bins have been provided during the last ten years.

The Cost of Collection, Sorting and Disposal for the Twelve Months ending December 31st, 1919.

<i>Wages :—</i>	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Collectors (including Bonus and Extra Horse)	501	6	0			
Sorters; Horse Attendance.. .. .	191	12	11			
War Bonus	30	11	9			
	<hr/>			723	10	8
<i>Bills :—</i>						
Carting Burnt Refuse to Tips	59	18	5			
Repairs, Veterinary Attendance, Forage, &c.	563	3	8			
	<hr/>			1346	12	9
<i>Receipts :—</i>						
Per Sale of Ashes, Bottles, &c.				26	3	2
				<hr/>		
				£1,320	9	7
				<hr/>		
<i>Total nett cost for year 1918</i>	<i>£1,003. 9s. 6d.</i>					
<i>Total nett cost for year 1919</i>	<i>£1,320. 9s. 7d.</i>					
<i>Weight of Refuse Collected</i>	<i>1,805 tons.</i>					

Sanitary Inspections of District.—The classified tables (1 and 2) show as far as tabular forms can do the number of premises visited, with the nature of defects and nuisances discovered, the action taken in regard to these and the result of such action.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations.

Slaughter-houses—Nine.

Common Lodging Houses—One.

*Schools :—*The water supply of the schools is constant, being taken direct from the mains of the Lewes Water Company. The closets mainly consist of stoneware trough closets, with automatic flushing cisterns. Urinals in the boys' departments consist of open slate compartments, with automatic and hand controlled flushing cisterns.

These have recently been reported on and are now being considered by the various school managers, with a view to their improvement.

For action taken in relation to the health of the scholars, and for prevention of infectious disease, see method of procedure, under "Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease."

TABLE I.

INSPECTIONS, VISITS, &c., made, January 1st to December 31st,
1919, by Mr. ARTHUR WARD, Sanitary Inspector.

Number of houses and premises inspected	435
„ complaints attended to	54
„ visits to slaughter houses, shops, &c.	114
„ visits to cowsheds and milkshops	15
„ visits to bakehouses	16
„ drains tested by smoke	5
„ drains tested by water	15
„ visits for re-inspections	216
„ visits for sundry purposes	497
„ visits under the Factory and Workshops and Shops Acts	93
„ notices sent to Employers, <i>re</i> Outworkers	12
„ visits, <i>re</i> sickness	294
„ patients removed to Hospital	14
„ visits, re-disinfection	41
„ visits to remove infected bedding, &c.	20
„ rooms disinfected (1 house)	56
„ sets of bedding, &c., disinfected	38
„ articles disinfected	444
„ visits to stables	55
„ visits to pig-keeper's premises	55
„ inspection of Leighside	3
„ samples of water for analysis	1
„ visits to Cattle Market	39
„ inspections, <i>re</i> Gooseberry Mildew	50
„ inspections, <i>re</i> Petroleum Acts	32
„ visits under Food Control Orders	250
Emergency Work, as Area Distribution Officer for the Ministry of Food, September 27th till	
Notices sent to Head Teachers of Elementary Schools	254
Notices sent to Parents	138
Reports, <i>re</i> Infectious Sickness prepared for Medical Officer of Health	48
Number of letters written	126
Number of Notices served	188
Number of Notices complied with, or work in hand	184

TABLE II.—NOTICES SERVED AND WORKS DONE DURING 1919.

Nature of Notice.	Warning and Statutory Notices.						Work in hand.	Not commenced.
	Number served.				Number of notices complied with.			
	Warning.		Statutory.					
	Owner.	Occupier.	Owner.	Occupier.	Owner.	Occupier.		
To empty, cleanse and fill up cesspool and drain into main sewer	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
To re-lay drain, ventilate, &c.	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
To repair drain or soil pipe	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
To repair, clear or cleanse closet	8	5	2	..	7	5	1	..
To clear drain or soil pipe	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
To remove defective closet and provide new closet	2	..	.	..	2	..	..	..
To repair, cleanse and whitewash† ..	26	..	3	..	24	..	2	..
To cleanse interior of house .. ..	..	6	..	..	..	6	..	..
To pave yard, scullery, &c.	2	..	1	..	2	..	..	..
To provide galvanized iron bins ..	13	..	2	..	13	..	..	..
To cleanse premises and remove accumulation .. .. .	..	6	..	..	..	6	..	..
To abate overcrowding .. ..	..	4	..	..	..	3	1	..
To cleanse and whitewash bakehouses..	..	8	..	..	..	8	..	..
To discontinue keeping animals so as to be a nuisance .. ..	..	4	..	..	..	4	..	..
To form a dry area (damp walls) ..	4	..	..	..	3	..	1	..
To repair defective roof	4	..	1	..	4	..	..	..
To repair external walls	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
To provide water to closet	7	..	2	..	6	..	1	..
To provide W.C. accommodation ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
To provide or repair rain water gutter and pipes	4	..	1	..	4	..	..	..
To take up brick floor and lay board floor with ventilation under ..	9	..	..	..	4	..	5	..
To make windows open top and bottom for ventilation*	16	..	..	..	9	..	5	2
To provide ventilation in lieu of fire-places‡	11	..	..	..	6	..	5	..
To remove defective sink; and fix new sink with waste pipe	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	1
To ventilate staircase	16	..	..	..	10	..	5	1
To remove accumulation of manure ..	2	8	..	..	2	8	..	..
Other nuisances	6	1	..	..	..	1	6	..

* 25 windows made to open properly.

† 8 houses—31 rooms.

‡ 22 rooms.

Food.

Milk Supply.—The greater part of the Town's supply is drawn from farms in adjoining districts. There are five cowkeepers in the Borough who keep about 50 cows, and 13 registered retailers, all of whose premises are kept in a generally clean condition. There are also two cowkeepers outside the Borough, who send in milk for sale by retail.

Forty-one samples of milk were taken by the Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts during the year and all found to be genuine.

Meat, Fish, Provisions, &c.—The various premises used for the sale of these commodities, and hawkers' carts have been given supervision.

Slaughter Houses.—There are nine slaughter houses in regular use in the Borough. The Bye-Laws regulating them have been generally observed. Examination of the carcasses of animals both during and after slaughter were made, and about 1,640 pounds of meat condemned as unfit for human food. This was voluntarily surrendered by the owners, and no case for prosecution occurred.

No. of carcasses or parts, condemned as Tubercular :—

Carcasses (whole)	1
Carcasses (parts of)	3

Food Condemned and Surrendered.

During the course of inspection of premises and examination of foods, the following were condemned as unfit for human food, and voluntarily surrendered by the owners :—

Meat	1640 pounds.
Butter	46 pounds.
Dates	300 pounds.
Milk	8 tins.
Marmalade	4 cartons.

Bakehouses.

There are 13 bakehouses (two underground) in use. Notices were served and complied with as follows :—

Linewashing	6
Cleansing	4
Other defects	1

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

Analysis under these Acts is undertaken by the East Sussex County Council. The Inspector, Mr. W. Fitcher, has kindly furnished the list of samples taken :—

New Milks	41
Butter	8
Lard	4
Sugar	4
Cheese	1
Honey	1
Cream	1

All of these samples were reported as genuine.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Hospital Accommodation.—The Lewes Infectious Hospital, situated at the extreme Western end of the Town, just off Nevill Road, is available for patients from the Borough only. It consists of an administrative block and two pavilions. A steam (Thresh's) disinfecter is installed at the hospital.

Notification of the following Infections Diseases is now compulsory :

Under the original Notification Act, 1889—

Small-Pox.	Scarlet Fever.
Cholera.	Typhus Fever.
Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.
Membranous Croup.	Enteric Fever.
Erysipelas.	Relapsing Fever.
Puerperal Fever.	

By Orders since made—

Tuberculosis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Pneumonia.
Acute Polio-Encephalitis.	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica.
Malaria.	Dysentery.
Trench Fever.	

Notifications of Infectious Diseases and Removals to Hospital.

Notifications.						Removals to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	..	..	8	..	..	6
Diphtheria	..	..	7	..	..	7
Measles	..	..	26	..	..	1
Erysipelas	..	..	4	..	..	—
Tuberculosis	..	..	43	(12 re-notifications)		16
Pneumonia	..	..	12	..	..	—
Malaria	..	..	1	..	..	1

NOTES ON ABOVE.

The cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were spread over the year as under :—

<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>			<i>Diphtheria.</i>		
Month.	..	No. of Cases.	Month.	..	No. of Cases.
March	..	3	February	..	1
July	..	1	April	..	1
September	..	1	June	..	1
October	..	1	August	..	2
November	..	1	September	..	2
December	..	1			

Scarlet Fever.—Two cases were imported. Four of the cases occurred amongst children attending the Elementary schools, and two attending private schools.

Diphtheria.—One case died the day after admission to hospital.

One case died three days after admission to hospital.

Both of these patients had been ill several days before medical aid was obtained.

One case was the mother of the last mentioned patient, who had been nursing the child, previous to its removal to hospital.

Of the other four cases, swabs were taken for examination from two and were reported negative; swabs were not taken before admission of the other two.

For cases suspicious of Diphtheria infection, the Sanitary Authority pay for the bacteriological examination of swabs sent by the Medical Practitioners.

All Diphtheria patients are swabbed until a negative result is obtained, before discharge from the hospital.

Tuberculosis.—Four were imported cases. Five were men demobilised from the Army. The sixteen cases removed to hospitals were sent by the Insurance Health Committee. Twelve had been previously notified.

Malaria.—This patient originally contracted Malaria whilst on Military Service in India.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

The total number of cases notified under

1. The Infectious Diseases Prevention Acts (including Tuberculosis and Measles, but excluding re-notifications) 77
2. Non-notifiable cases, under arrangement with the Lewes Education Committee 302
3. Cases of Infectious Diseases removed to Hospital (excluding Tuberculosis) 15

The visits made, disinfection of houses, bedding, &c.; see Table I. Page 9.

Methods of procedure in dealing with infectious disease.

Notifiable Diseases.

On receipt of notification the house is visited and enquiries made into all the circumstances under which the sickness has arisen; also the conditions of the house and surroundings, milk supply, school and contacts, and any other information ascertained which would lead to the source of infection, and restrict the further spread of the disease.

When the patient is removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases which is always urged in the cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever, and generally agreed to, the room is afterwards disinfected, by either spraying or fumigation, followed by the removal of the bedding, wearing apparel, &c., to the Steam Disinfecting Station, with a printed list of the articles removed, which is signed by the owner on their safe return.

Stripping, &c., of walls is required according to circumstances, and thorough cleansing of rooms is urged in all cases.

A card is left with the parent or guardian containing instructions *re* visiting patient at the Hospital and the symptoms which should be regarded as being suspicious of infection in other members of the family.

A certificate, excluding the patient and contacts from Day and Sunday School, is left with the parent and also sent to the Secretary of the Education Committee.

Non-Notifiable Diseases, i.e., Chicken Pox, Measles, Whooping Cough, Scabies, &c.

Notice is sent by the Head Teachers of the Elementary Schools to the Medical Officer of Health, on forms provided for the purpose, of any absentees from school owing to sickness arising from the above diseases, or other suspicious sickness.

The homes of these children are visited, the facts ascertained as nearly as possible, and exclusion certificates given to parents and teachers as the conditions indicate.

When it is found that no doctor is in attendance the parents are advised to obtain medical advice.

In the cases of Scabies, special treatment of hot baths and application of Liqueur Calcis Suppurate and Ung Sulphuris, with disinfection of the clothing, of school children is provided by the Council, the treatment being carried out by the School Nurse.

This provision has also been taken advantage of by some adults suffering with Scabies.

Influenza.

1,500 copies of the following circular were distributed through the medium of the schools :—

BOROUGH OF LEWES.

Public Health Office,

Town Hall, Lewes,

February, 1919.

INFLUENZA.

1. The golden rule is to keep fit, and avoid infection as much as possible.

2. The way to keep fit is to cultivate healthy and regular habits, to eat good food, and to avoid fatigue, chill and alcoholism. Healthy living does not of itself ensure against attack, but it makes the patient better able to withstand the complications which kill.

3. The early symptoms of Influenza are usually those of a severe feverish cold. Though the actual cause of the disease is unknown, we do know that it is rapid in onset, that it is most infectious in its early stages, and that it is spread by discharges from the mouth and nose, and that it kills mainly by its complications. Every person suffering from the disease, no matter how mild the form, is a danger to others.

4. It is not always possible to avoid infection, but the risks can be lessened by :—

- (a) healthy living ;
- (b) working and sleeping in well-ventilated rooms ;
- (c) avoiding crowded gatherings and close, ill-ventilated rooms ;
- (d) wearing warm clothing ;
- (e) gargling the throat and washing out the nostrils ;*
- (f) by wearing a † mask and glasses when nursing or in attendance on a person suffering from Influenza.

5. Do not waste money on drugs in the false hope of preventing infection.

Those attacked should :—

- (a) go home, go to bed, and keep warm ;
- (b) call in a doctor ;
- (c) occupy, if possible, a separate bedroom or a bed that is screened off from the rest of the room ;
- (d) when coughing or sneezing hold a handkerchief in front of the mouth ; the handkerchief should be boiled, or burnt if of paper ;
- (e) use a gargle as described ;
- (f) be careful during convalescence in order to avoid relapse or complications ;
- (g) avoid meetings and places of entertainment for at least one week after the temperature has become normal.

JOHN R. STENHOUSE, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

* The following may be used as a gargle :—A solution of common salt (one teaspoonful to a pint of warm water) to which a few crystals of potassium permanganate are added—enough to make the solution pink.

† The mask, which may be made of gauze (4 layers) or butter muslin (3 layers), should cover the mouth and nose. To protect the eyes it is advisable to wear goggles.

Orders and Memorandums were received from the Local Government Board in regard to various matters as follows :—

Influenza.

Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, &c.

Midwives Act.

Local Authorities Milk (mother and children).

Tetanus (Prophylactic use of Tetanus Antitoxin).
 Acute Encephalitis Lethargica.
 Acute Polio-Encephalitis.
 Measles.

Sanitary Administration.

1.—The services of the Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. Arthur Ward, have been available throughout the year; some part of his time was given to the Food Control Committee; and he also acted as Area Distribution Officer for the Ministry of Food, during the Emergency Period, 27th September onwards.

The visits paid, notices served and work carried out, are given in Tables I. and II., &c.

2.—The Hospital for Infectious Diseases has accommodation for 25 beds. Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever are admitted; also cases of other notifiable infectious diseases, if accommodation is available.

The buildings are of brickwork, and comprise an Administrative and Convalescent Block, Scarlet Fever Block of two wards, and a Typhoid Fever or Diphtheria Block of two wards, with kitchen, nurses' rooms, &c.

The Hospital has been sufficient for the needs of the Borough, and is freely used, nearly every case of the notifiable diseases consenting to removal thereto.

The Medical Officer of Health is Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, but the patients are permitted to have the attendance of their own doctor if desired.

Staff.

Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. R. Stenhouse, Medical Officer of Health.

Nurse Matron, }
 Caretaker, } Mrs. and Mr. Clarity.
 Wardmaid-General.

Additional Nurses when required.

Cases of Small-Pox can be sent to the County Borough of Brighton Small-Pox Hospital.

3.—Bye-Laws, New Streets and Buildings.

1882. Cleansing of footways and pavements.
 Nuisances.

Common Lodging Houses.

Slaughter Houses.

1907. Paving of yards and open spaces in connection with dwelling house; and keeping water closets supplied with sufficient water for flushing.

Adopted Acts. Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Public Health Act Amendment Act (Part 3), 1890.

Public Health Act Amendment Act (Parts and Sections), 1907.

Regulations. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, 1907.

4.—*Chemical and Bacteriological Work.*—Specimens for bacteriological examination for Diphtheria and Enteric Fever are sent to the Clinical Research Association, London; material for Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, to the pathological department of the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton. Material for the detection of tubercle bacilli is undertaken generally by the Medical Officer of the East Sussex County Council.

The Council pay for these examinations, also for the supply of Diphtheria anti-toxin in certain cases.

BOROUGH OF LEWES.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.	Prosecu- tions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries.)	11	1	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries.)	30	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	—	—	—
Total	41	1	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	—	—		
Want of ventilation	—			
Overcrowding	—			
Want of drainage of floors	—			
Other nuisances	2	2		
Sanitary { insufficient	3	2		
accommo- { unsuitable or defective	—			
dation. { not separate for sexes	—			
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—			
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	5	5		
Other offences	1			
(Excluding offences relating to outwork, which are included in Part 3 of this Report)				
Total	11	9	Nil.	Nil.

3.—HOMEWORK.

List of Outworkers (s. 107).

Nature of Work.	Lists received from Employers sending once in the year.			Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.
	Lists.	Outworkers.		
		Con- tractors.	Work- men.	
Wearing Apparel—Making, &c.	.. 10	—	18	12
Total .. ..	.. 10	—	18	12

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year :—

Bakehouses	12
Motor and Cycle Engineers ..	15
Builders, Plumbers and House Decorators ..	24
Smiths	9
Masons	1
Laundries	4
Bootmakers	13
Tailors	13
Dressmakers and Milliners ..	16
Printers	3
Others	18
Total	128

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 133)	2
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5)	—
Other	2

Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—

Certificates granted during the year ..	—
In use at the end of the year ..	2

Housing.

1. General Housing conditions in the District.

- | | | |
|----|--|--------|
| 1. | Number of houses | 2,449 |
| | Number of houses for the working classes .. | 2,037 |
| | Number of new houses erected during the year
or in course of construction | None |
| 2. | Population (estimated) | 10,500 |
| 3. | (a) Extent of shortage | 100 |
| | (b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet shortage— | |

A building scheme has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health for the erection of 100 houses. Ground has been secured, and authority is now being asked for the raising of a Loan to purchase, and for the General Lay-out, Streets Works and Sewerage.

2. Overcrowding.

1. Extent 1·22 per cent.
2. Causes. Lack of housing accommodation, and the refusal except under extremely unreasonable conditions of the owner of at least nine houses to let.
3. Measures taken or contemplated to deal with overcrowding—
 Attempts by the Council to purchase seven of the above-mentioned houses, and in lieu of this, urging the Ministry of Health to secure powers for Local Authorities to compel owners to let unoccupied houses which are suitable for the working classes.
 Notices served on the occupiers of houses where very bad cases of overcrowding exist.
4. Principal cases of overcrowding dealt with during the year and action taken—

1.	House of four rooms, 8 persons	
2.	„ four „ 11 „	}
3.	„ two „ 7 „	
4.	„ three „ 7 „	

3. Fitness of houses.

1. (a) General standard of houses in the district: many very poor, remainder varying from medium to good.
- (b) General character of defects found to exist in unfit houses: defective and damp floors and walls; decaying timber; insufficient light and ventilation; roofs, chimneys and gutterings defective.
2. Action taken in regard to unfit houses—

(a)	Public Health Acts	}	Notices served to remedy principle defects.
(b)	Housing Acts		
3. Difficulties in remedying unfitness, special measures taken and any suggestions in the matter—
 Occupation while necessary work is being carried out; difficulties in connection with labour and the high cost of materials. That compulsory powers should be given in regard to unoccupied houses, mentioned in section 2, clause 2.

4. Conditions, as regards water supply, closet accommodation, refuse disposal, and measures taken during the year in these matters—

- (a) Water supply—sufficient. Source—Lewes Water Company, the Cliffe Well and a few private wells. Analysis of the Company's water supply made twice.
- (b) Closet accommodation.—Practically all water closets; mostly separate accommodation; flushing cisterns attached to many.
- (c) Refuse disposal.—Weekly collection by the Council's own staff; all shelved on the Council's wharf; sorted; bottles, jars, &c., sold; remainder burnt and the residue disposed of for brickmaking, meadow dressing and filling up low lying grounds.

Notices have been served for the providing of water to closets, cleansing, &c., and provision of galvanised iron receptacles for house refuse.

4. Unhealthy Areas.

No action has been taken during the year under Part 1 or Part 2 of the Housing Act, 1890.

5. Bye-laws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, &c.—Generally satisfactory.

6. General and Miscellaneous.

7. Appendices. Statistics for the 12 months ended 31st Dec., 1919:—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which complaints were made that they are unfit for human habitation—

(a) By householders None

2. Action under Section 17 of the Housing Act of 1909—

(a) Number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purpose of the above section 38

(b) Number of dwelling houses which were considered to be unfit for human habitation 7

(c) Number of dwelling houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders .. 6

3. Action under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1919—

(a) Number of orders for repairs issued None

(b) Number of cases in which repairs carried out by the Local Authority None

(c) Number of dwelling houses voluntarily closed on notice by owner that they could not be made fit without reconstruction None

4. Closing Orders made None

5. Demolition Orders made None

6. Number of dwelling houses demolished voluntarily .. None

7. Obstructive buildings None

8. Staff engaged in Housing work with, briefly, duties of each officer—

1. Inspector: inspection of houses, keeping records, serving notices, re-inspecting houses respecting works to be done, reporting to Sanitary Authority, &c.

2. Architect and Surveyor, in conjunction with the Borough Surveyor: engaged in the preparation of plans, laying out of roads, sewers, &c., in connection with the new Housing Scheme of the Council.



L



Borough



of Lewes.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1925.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1925, embodying the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health this year's Report is rather more extensive, and, to some extent, a review of the past five years.

Looking back over this period, I notice that the Sewerage Scheme is now in full working order, and that additional areas have been brought into it.

There have been several changes in the Sanitary Staff, as I have been appointed M.O.H. in place of the late Dr. Stenhouse (November, 1921), and an assistant Sanitary Inspector, Mr. A. L. Vigar, C.R.S.I., has been appointed (January, 1925).

The Isolation Hospital has now been connected to the main drainage system.

A new Motor Ambulance has been provided in place of the old one, and its services are being more sought every year.

Land has been acquired for Refuse Tipping: it is conveniently situated as regards access, and is not too near the town.

With reference to the Statistics given in the body of the Report, it will be noticed that 55.4% of all deaths occurred among persons of the age of 65 or over. The "corrected" death rate for the year was 10.4 per 1,000; this death rate figure is obtained by multiplying the recorded death rate by a factor supplied by the Registrar-General in order to make allowance for the age and sex distribution of the population.

The birth rate of Lewes is steadily declining and is now 15.4 per 1,000 as compared with 18.3 for England and Wales, so that the so-called "natural increase" of population works out at 2.2 per 1,000, last year's figures for Lewes being 4.9, and that for the whole of England and Wales 6.6.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

W. A. DOW,
Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics.

Area	1,042 acres.
Population (1921 Census)	10,798.
Number of inhabited houses	2,689.
Number of families or separate occupiers ..	3,350.
Rateable Value	£66,295.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£247.

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Population estimated to middle of year	10,700	10,800	10,930	11,060	11,110
Birth-rate per 1,000	20·4	19·5	16·7	16·6	15·4
General death-rate	13·1	10·0	11·8	11·66	10·4
Death-rate per 1,000 from notifiable diseases (excluding consumption)	·56	·55	·73	·72	·99
Death-rate from respiratory tuberculosis	·93	·55	1·37	·63	·81
Death-rate under 1 year to 1,000 births	54·7	28·4	32·7	65·2	52·6
Deaths over 65, percentage of total deaths	52·1	52·7	43·0	54·2	55·4

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

				TOTALS.	M.	F.	
Births	{ Legitimate	..	..	162	..	91	71
	{ Illegitimate	..	..	9	..	3	6
				Total		<hr/> 171	

BIRTH RATE 15·4.

Deaths	65	81
	Total	146

CORRECTED DEATH RATE 10·4.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:—

Sepsis	0
Other causes	0

Deaths of infants under one year of age, per 1,000 births (usually spoken of as Infantile Mortality):—

RATE, 52·6.

The number of deaths being 9, all of whom were legitimate children.

Deaths from Measles	1
„ „ Whooping Cough	1
„ „ Diarrhoea	2

Causes of Death in Lewes.

CIVILIANS ONLY.

Causes of Death.					Males.	Females.
All causes	..	..	..	..	65	81
Measles	..	..	..	..	1	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	—	1
Influenza	..	..	..	..	3	6
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	1	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	2	7
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	2	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	..	..	..	..	5	14
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	..	2	—
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	1	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	..	..	..	..	1	5
Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	14	13
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	4	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	6	4
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	..	..	..	..	1	—
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	2	—
Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	1	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	..	..	..	..	1	—
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth					3	—
Suicide	..	..	..	..	2	—
Other Deaths from Violence	..	..	..	..	2	3
Other defined diseases	..	..	..	..	11	16

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—

Total	..	..	..	..	7	2
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—

TOTAL BIRTHS	..	..	..	..	94	77
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	91	71
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	3	6

Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925 while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death Registered by Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.	
England and Wales ..	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0	
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6	
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations, 20,000—50,000) ..	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1	
London	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0	
Lewes	15.4	10.4	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.81	0.45	11.7	52	94.5	5.5	0.0	

Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease.					Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.		Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	17	..	16	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	—	..	—	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	5	..	—	..
Encephalitis Lethargica		..	..	..	—	..	—	..
Tuberculosis.								
(a) Pulmonary.	{				Males ..	..	12	..
	{				Females	..	10	..
	{				Total ..	..	22	..
(b) Non-Pulmonary.	{				Males	..	2	..
	{				Females	..	2	..
	{				Total	..	4	..

Most of the cases of tuberculosis are notified; nearly all cases are referred by the medical attendant to the Tuberculosis Officer of the East Sussex County Council; these receive appropriate treatment according to the circumstances of each case. The houses of all known cases are visited, and any necessary sanitary work carried out. Cases not attending the Tuberculosis Clinic are urged to take advantage of its benefits.

One of the cases notified was imported, a case of Tubercular Adenitis.

Causes of Sickness.

Scarlet Fever. — Seventeen cases were notified, and distributed throughout the year, thus :—

January	..	..	1	July	..	..	2
February	..	..	6	August	..	..	0
March	..	..	2	September	..	..	1
April	..	..	2	October	..	..	0
May	..	..	3	November	..	..	0
June	..	..	0	December	..	..	0

NOTES ON SICKNESS.

Scarlet Fever.—Eleven cases were children of school age, who attended the following Schools :—Pells, 2; Southover, 3; Central, 1; St. Anne's, 1; St. John's, 1; Secondary School for Girls, 2; one child attended a school in Brighton.

Three of the cases were of persons aged 18, 20 and 50 years respectively.

In two instances, two cases occurred in one family.

There has been no serious epidemic of infectious disease during the year.

Analysis of Infectious Diseases Notified and arranged in Age Groups.

	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	1	1	6	5	1	1	—	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS.—New Cases and Mortality.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	5	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	1	6	—	—	2	1	—	—
55	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	12	10	2	2	2	4	—	—

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths is 46 per cent.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home:—

(a) General. None provided by the Sanitary Authority, but services of District Nurses from the Lewes Nursing Association are available, and are voluntarily provided in cases of necessity; in other cases fees are charged according to the circumstances of the patient.

(b) Infectious diseases (*e.g.*, Measles). The Local Authority provides nurses in necessitous cases. There are private nurses residing in the town, and nurses can be obtained from Brighton and other towns, but there is no financial or other arrangement between them and the Local Authority.

Midwives.—The East Sussex County Council are the supervising authority under the Midwives' Act. The Lewes Nursing Association provides two midwives.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

	Name.	Situation.	Nature of accommodation	Provided by
Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.	Lewes.	Cliffe Square.	Ample.	Voluntary. Nurse provided and receives grant through County Council
Day Nursery.	None.	None.	None.	—
School Clinic.	Lewes.	Rooms in Town Hall.	Waiting and consulting room, medical and dental officers.	Lewes Education Authority.
Tuberculosis.	Lewes.	Dispensary, St. Nicholas Lane.	Sufficient.	East Sussex County Council.
Venereal Disease.	E. Sussex.	Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.	Out-patient or In-patient as required.	East Sussex County Council.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or County Council.

Tuberculosis.—Darvell Hall Sanatorium, Robertsbridge, Sussex. Provided by the East Sussex County Council. Accommodation sufficient for the needs of the Borough.

Maternity.—Hospital for Women, West Street, Brighton, is available for cases from Lewes, and is subsidised by the County Council.

Children.—Royal Alexandra Hospital, Brighton. Subsidised by the County Council (two beds retained).

Fever.—Lewes Isolation Hospital, Nevill Road, Lewes. Maintained entirely by the Lewes Town Council. Consists of Administration Block and two Pavilions, and has accommodation for 24 patients.

Small-pox.—Cases of Small-pox are admitted to the Brighton Small-pox Hospital under agreement with that authority.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Infants.

The Diocesan Purity Association has a Home in Lewes (Gateway House) with accommodation for 10 persons, and is maintained by voluntary contributions.

Ambulance Facilities.

One horse ambulance used exclusively for infectious diseases.

One motor ambulance used exclusively for non-infectious sickness and accidents. Both the property of the Local Authority.

NOTE.—The motor ambulance is available for use of patients in districts outside the Borough at fixed charge per mile run.

Laboratory Work.

Chemical and Bacteriological Work.—Specimens for bacteriological examination for Diphtheria and Enteric Fever are sent to the Clinical Research Association, London; material for Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, to the pathological department of the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton. Examination of material for the detection of tubercle bacilli is undertaken generally by the Medical Officer of the East Sussex County Council.

The Council pay for these examinations, also for the supply of Diphtheria anti-toxin in most cases.

Analysis of the Lewes Water Company's supply made, bacteriologically and chemically, by Dr. S. Allinson Woodhead, who reported that the water maintains its very high standard of purity.

Mr. Johnston, Manager of the Waterworks Company, has kindly supplied the following figures for the Rainfall during the year:—

RAINFALL FOR THE YEAR 1925 AT THE PUMPING STATION OF THE
LEWES WATERWORKS COMPANY.

Month.	Rainfall in inches.	Above Average for 34	Below Average years.	Days '01 or more rain fell.	Greatest quantity in one day.
January	4.26	1.22	—	23	0.80 on 1st
February	4.49	1.91	—	24	1.06 on 25th
March	1.12	—	1.34	14	0.24 on 24th
April	3.78	1.64	—	19	0.62 on 5th
May	3.64	1.81	—	18	1.24 on 27th
June	0.14	—	1.83	2	0.10 on 24th
July	5.88	3.33	—	17	1.66 on 22nd
August	2.46	—	0.29	18	0.93 on 22nd
September	3.38	0.78	—	17	0.69 on 20th
October	5.61	1.60	—	13	1.35 on 19th
November	3.89	0.51	—	14	1.10 on 2nd
December	5.53	1.28	—	18	1.32 on 29th
Total	44.18	—	—	197	

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health (part time), W. A. Dow, M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector (whole time), Arthur Ward, C.R.S.I.

Contribution to the salaries of both officers is made under the Public Health Acts.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector (whole time), A. L. Vigar, C.R.S.I.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The Town is situated on the tidal River Ouse. The greater part is on the chalk, rising from the alluvium, at the lower part of the Town, 18 feet above high water mark to 200 feet above high water mark at the highest part of the Town.

The Town is largely residential, but Ironworks, Cement Works and Breweries provide occupation for a considerable industrial population.

There is no occupation particularly influencing the public health.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supply.—The water supply is derived almost entirely from the Lewes Water Company. The Cliffe Well and some private wells are still being used.

The Company's well is situated at the South-west end of the Town. The water is pumped from the well into the three covered distributing reservoirs, *i.e.*, Jubilee Park, The Race Hill and Western Road. The supply is constant, of good quality and sufficient for the needs of the community.

Analyses of the water made during the year gave very satisfactory results.

Drainage and Sewerage.—"Water carriage system"; a few houses only being connected to cesspools.

The sewerage system provides for the converging of all sewers to a Central Station at Southerham, where the effluent, after the passing of the sewage through screens and settling tanks is discharged into the River Ouse at suitable states of the tide.

Closet Accommodation.—Practically all water closets; part hand flushed and part with flushing cisterns. 182 have been provided with flushing cisterns during the last five years.

Scavenging.—The collection of House Refuse and its Disposal is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The collection is made once a week over the whole district. The refuse is deposited at the Corporation's tip at Ham Fields, some distance from the town, and after sorting and burning the residue is utilised for mixing with the sludge from the Sewage Works, and filling up low-lying grounds.

267 movable galvanized iron covered dustbins have been provided during the last five years.

Bye-laws, Adoptive Acts, &c.

Adopted.

Bye-laws ..	New Streets and Buildings	} 20th Oct., 1882
	Cleansing of footways and pavements	
	Nuisances	
	Common Lodging Houses	
	Slaughter Houses	
	Paving of yards and open spaces in connection with dwelling houses ; and keeping the water closets supplied with sufficient water for flushing	15th March, 1907
Acts ..	Infectious Disease (Prevention Act), 1890	2nd Feb., 1898
	Public Health Act Amendment Act (Part 3), 1890	3rd Aug., 1905
	Public Health Act Amendment Act (Parts and Sections), 1907	9th Sept., 1912
Regulations.	Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, 1907	2nd Jan., 1907
	Public Health (Meat) Regulations ..	1925
	Rats and Mice Destruction Order ..	1923

Sanitary Administration.

Work of the Sanitary Department, prepared by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. ARTHUR WARD, under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922 :—

1. Summary of Inspections.
2. Summary of notices served and work done.
3. Housing.
4. Inspection of places where food is prepared and sold.
5. Number and condition of Slaughter Houses, registered or licensed.
6. Arrangements for disinfection, &c.
7. Inspections under Factory and Workshops Acts.
8. Collection and Disposal of House Refuse.
9. Motor Ambulance.
10. Petroleum Acts.
11. Rats and Mice Destruction Order, 1923.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, VISITS, &c.

Number of houses and premises inspected	780
„ complaints attended to	106
„ visits to slaughter houses, shops, &c.	476
„ visits to cowsheds and milkshops	25
„ drains tested by smoke	5
„ drains tested by water	15
„ visits to Common Lodging Houses	5
„ visits for re-inspections	526
„ visits for sundry purposes	670
„ visits under the Factory and Workshops and Shops Acts	59
„ notices sent to Employers, <i>re</i> Outworkers	14
„ visits, <i>re</i> sickness	385
„ patients removed to Hospital	21
„ visits, re-disinfection	40
„ visits to remove infected bedding, &c.	35
„ rooms disinfected (1 School)	39
„ sets of bedding, &c., disinfected	33
„ articles disinfected	451
„ visits <i>re</i> Rats and Mice Destruction Order	61
„ visits to stables	46
„ samples of water for analysis	3
„ visits <i>re</i> house refuse	39
„ visits to Cattle Market	40
„ inspections of Urinals (2 night)	14
„ inspections, <i>re</i> Petroleum Acts	93
„ inspections of Marine Stores	10
„ of matters referred to Borough Surveyor	8
Notices sent to the Secretary Education Committee	294
Notices sent to Parents	229
Reports, <i>re</i> Infectious Sickness prepared for Medical Officer of Health	46
Number of letters and notices written	224
Number of Notices served	278
Number of Notices complied with, or work in hand	283

TABLE II.—NOTICES SERVED AND WORKS DONE DURING 1925.

Nature of Notice.	Warning and Statutory Notices.						Work in hand.	Not commenced.
	Number served.				Number of notices complied with.			
	Warning.		Statutory.					
	Owner.	Occupier.	Owner.	Occupier.	Owner.	Occupier.		
To empty, cleanse and fill up cesspool and drain into main sewer ..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
To re-lay drain, ventilate, &c... ..	3	..	..	..	2	..	1	..
To repair drain or soil pipe	12	..	..	..	14	..	1	..
To repair, clear or cleanse closet ..	10	6	..	3	10	6	..	1
To clear drain or soil pipe	10	1	..	..	11	1	..	1
To repair, cleanse and whitewash ..	6	..	..	..	6	..	2	..
To cleanse and disinfect verminous house	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..
To pave yard, scullery, &c.	3	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
To provide galvanized iron bins ..	145	..	3	..	145	..	3	3
To cleanse premises and remove accumulation	1	11	..	..	..	11	..	1
To discontinue keeping animals so as to be a nuisance .. .. .	..	4	..	..	..	4	..	..
To repair defective roof	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
To repair external walls (dampness) ..	4	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
To provide water to closet	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
To provide W.C. accommodation ..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
To provide or repair rain water gutter and pipes	4	..	..	..	5	..	1	..
To repair board floors	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
To repair and make windows open top and bottom for ventilation ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
To fix new sink, waste pipe, &c. ..	10	..	..	..	9	..	2	1
To ventilate staircase	7	..	..	..	8	..	..	..
To cleanse and fill up manure pit ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
To remove accumulation of manure ..	..	6	..	..	..	6	..	..
To discontinue making black smoke..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Other nuisances and defects	7	1	..	..	6	1	1	..
Rats and Mice Destruction Order ..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..

HOUSING.

1. General Housing conditions in the District.

1. General Housing Conditions.—All the houses in the Borough are fully occupied, and in a number of them congested conditions exist.
2. (a) Extent of shortage 39
 (b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet shortage—
 Houses being built by private enterprise, in many cases with subsidy.
3. No important change of population is anticipated during the year, or in the immediate future.

II. Overcrowding.

1. Extent.—Serious overcrowding has not been observed, but accommodation is very congested in some cases, especially where more than one family occupy the house.
2. Causes.—Lack of housing accommodation for the working classes.
3. Measures taken or contemplated to deal with overcrowding—
 When found Notices are served, or advice given as to re-arrangement of sleeping accommodation, according as circumstances indicate.

III. Fitness of houses.

1. (a) General standard of houses in the district: many very poor, remainder varying from medium to good.
 (b) General character of defects found to exist in unfit houses: defective and damp floors and walls; decaying timber; insufficient light and ventilation; roofs, chimneys and gutterings defective.
 (c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners—
 Due most generally to owner's lack of supervision, although many tenants are not free from blame.
2. Action taken in regard to unfit houses—
 (a) Public Health Acts .. } Notices served to remedy
 (b) Housing Acts } principle defects.
3. Difficulties in remedying unfitness, special measures taken and any suggestions in the matter—
 A reasonable time is given owners to carry out the necessary works, and no special difficulties have arisen.

4. Conditions, as regards water supply, closet accommodation, refuse disposal, and measures taken during the year in these matters—

- (a) Water supply — sufficient. Source — Lewes Water Company, the Cliffe Well and a few private wells. Analysis of the Company's water supply made twice.
- (b) Closet accommodation.— Practically all water closets ; mostly separate accommodation ; flushing cisterns attached to many. Closet accommodation was provided in three instances. 182 flushing cisterns have been fixed during last five years.
- (c) Refuse Disposal.—Collection made once a week. The refuse is tipped at Corporation's Wharf at Ham Fields, some distance from the town. After sorting and burning, the residue is utilised for mixing with the sludge from the Sewage Works adjoining, and filling up low-lying ground. 267 iron covered bins have been provided during the last five years.

IV. Unhealthy Areas.

No representations made, nor action taken under the Housing Acts.

- V. Bye-laws relating to houses, houses let in lodgings, tents, vans, sheds, &c.—Generally satisfactory.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	41
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(1) By Local Authority	—
(2) By other bodies or persons	20

1. *Unfit dwelling houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	415
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	125
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	52

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	47
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- | | | |
|--|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. | } | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :— | | |
| (a) by owners | | |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | | |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | | |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | | |
|--|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | } | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :— | | |
| (a) by owners | | |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | | |

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- | | | |
|--|---|------|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | } | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | | |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit.. | | |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | | |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | | |

FOOD.

Inspection of Places where Food is Prepared, Sold, &c.

Bakehouses.—There are 12 bakehouses in regular use. Notices were served in two instances, and unsatisfactory conditions remedied.

Milk.—The greater supply of the milk is drawn from farms outside the Borough. There are four cowkeepers with about 50 cows, and 15 retailers registered within the Borough. Three cowkeepers outside the Borough send in milk for sale by retail.

Two retailers hold licenses for the supply of "Certified Grade A" milk, under the Milk (Special Designation) Amendment Order, 1922.

Meat, Fish, &c.—The various premises and conveyances used for the preparation and sale of these articles have been given supervision.

Slaughter-houses and Shops. Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.—There are nine registered slaughter-houses and one licensed slaughter-house in the Borough, with 13 occupiers. Inspection of the slaughter-houses and shops under the Regulations have been regularly made.

Examination of carcasses during and after slaughter was made on practically all occasions of slaughter, and nearly 38 cwt. of diseased and unsound meat condemned as unfit for human consumption. No case for prosecution arose, the meat being voluntarily surrendered by the owners.

Practically all the meat condemned was destroyed by burning at the Corporation's Refuse dump.

All the shops are fitted with movable or fixed glass fronts. No action has been necessary to enforce observance of the Regulations.

Most of the butchers slaughter on regular days, the remainder send notices of day and time, on each occasion of slaughter.

Unsound Food Condemned and Surrendered.

Meat	4234 pounds.
Corned Beef	9 „
Fish	42 „
Jellies	5 dozen packets.

No. of carcasses or parts, condemned as tubercular :—

Carcasses (whole), 4 pigs, 5 beasts	9
„ (parts), 14 „, 3 „,	17

Number of slaughter houses in use in the district :—

	In 1920.	January, 1925.	December, 1925.
Registered	9	9	9
Licensed	—	1	1
	9	10	10

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

Analysis under these Acts is undertaken by the East Sussex County Council. The Inspector, Mr. W. Fitcher, has kindly furnished the list of samples taken :—

New Milks	45
Spirits	2
Jam	10
Butter	1
Apples	2
Potted Meat.. .. .	6
Mineral Waters	5

All the samples were reported by the Public Analyst to be genuine.

Methods of Procedure in dealing with Infectious Disease.

Notifiable Disease.

On receipt of notification the house is visited and enquiries made into all the circumstances under which the sickness has arisen; also the conditions of the house and surroundings, milk supply, school and contacts, and any other information ascertained which would lead to the source of infection, and restrict the further spread of disease.

When the patient is removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, which is always urged in the cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever, and generally agreed to, the room is afterwards disinfected, by either spraying or fumigation, followed by the removal of the bedding, wearing apparel, &c., to the Council's Steam Disinfecting Station, with a printed list of articles removed, which is signed by the owner on their safe return.

Stripping, &c., of walls is required according to circumstances, and thorough cleansing of rooms is urged in all cases.

A card is left with the parent or guardian containing instructions *re* visiting patient at the Hospital and the symptoms which should be regarded as being suspicions of infection in other members of the family.

A certificate, excluding the patient and contacts from Day and Sunday School, is left with the parent and also sent to the Secretary of the Education Committee.

Non-Notifiable Diseases, i.e., Chicken Pox, Measles, Whooping Cough, Scabies, &c.

Notice is sent by the Head Teachers of the Elementary Schools to the Medical Officer of Health, on forms provided for the purpose, of any absentees from school owing to sickness arising from the above diseases, or other suspicious sickness.

The homes of these children are visited, the facts ascertained as nearly as possible, and exclusion certificates given to parents and teachers as the conditions indicate.

When it is found that no doctor is in attendance the parents are advised to obtain medical advice.

In the case of Scabies, special treatment of hot baths and application of Liquor Calcis Sulph. and Ung. Sulphuris (with disinfection of the clothing of school children) is provided by the Council, the treatment being carried out by the School Nurse.

Factory and Workshops Acts.

Inspections.

Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Workshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Notices given <i>re</i> defects		..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Defects remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Matters referred to H.M. Inspector of Factories	..	..						—

Outworkers.

Lists of Outworkers received	..	..	..	..	..	13
Number of Outworkers	..	..	..	..	..	19
Lists forwarded to other Authorities	..	..	..	..	..	1
Lists received from other Authorities	..	..	..	..	..	—

COLLECTION and DISPOSAL of HOUSE REFUSE.

Costs for the Year ending 31st December, 1925.

<i>Wages :—</i>						£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sorters	..	..	..	..	..	123	19	7			
Establishment Charges	..	..	..	..	..	13	7	0			
						<hr/>			137	6	7
<i>Bills :—</i>											
Hunt, J.	..	..	..	..	..	910	10	0			
Removing Trade Refuse to Tips	..	..	..	..	..	0	5	6			
Repairs, Tools, Lime, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	1	10	0			
						<hr/>			912	5	6
<i>Receipts :—</i>									1,049	12	1
Per Sale of Bottles, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	10	0	0			
„ Special Collections	..	..	..	..	..	1	16	0			
„ Tipping Trade Refuse	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	0			
						<hr/>			12	18	0
Nett Cost						..	..	£1,036	14	1	
<i>Total nett cost for the year 1924</i>						..		£1,027.	15s.	1d.	
<i>Total nett cost for the year 1925</i>						..		£1,036.	14s.	1d.	
<i>Nett cost per head of population</i>						..		1s.	11d.		

Collection.—A new contract for the Collection of House Refuse was made in September, with Mr. J. Hunt, for the twelve months ending 29th September, 1926, at an inclusive price of £920.

Disposal.—The refuse has been tipped at the Osier Bed in the Ham Fields during the year, the refuse along the face of the tip is kept burning.

The Council's Sewage Works have been kept supplied with ashes for mixing with the sludge.

Motor Ambulance.

During the year ending 31st December, 1925, 58 journeys were made ; 990 miles run ; 43 patients carried ; Receipts, £66. 12s. 3d. ; Running Costs, &c., £42. 13s. 8d. ; Accounts outstanding, £1. 13s. 9d. Owing to the special circumstances of patients, the Committee modified the charges in 7 cases.

Petroleum Acts.

During the year 93 visits were made in respect of the storage of Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium.

Thirty-seven licenses were granted : 23 for the storage of Petroleum, and 14 for the storage of Carbide of Calcium.

The total amounts that might be stored under these licenses were : Petroleum, 27,650 gallons ; Carbide of Calcium, 5,860 pounds.

There are eleven underground storage tanks in the Borough.

Rats and Mice Destruction Order, 1923.

By the co-operation of the Proprietors of the Cinema de Luxe, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries film, illustrating the life, &c., of the rat, was screened every evening for one week in September.

Sixty-one visits (under the Order) were made, and advice given as to treatment required.

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